ATION ANO TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write up in Tribune, dated 29th August, 1994 to the effect that foreign airlines get better treatment at the cost of national airlines; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The allegations were investigated and it was observed that the Air Traffic Control is following the defined procedurts for allotment of flight levels to aircraft as well as for issue of clearance for landing and take off from airports.

Incident in IA Airbus IC-939

1351. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was some incident of panic and commotion in Indian Airlines Airbus No. IC-939 from Hyderabad to Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the incident occurred nearly an hour after the delayed take-off of the plane;

(d) if so, the reasons for not ensuring proper technical functioning of the aircraft during delayed take-off period;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action to check such incidents in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines Airbus A-320 aircraft VT-EPT, operating flight IC-939 of 21.11.94 from Hyderabad to Delhi was involved in an incident of smoke warning in rear cargo Compartment signal coming "on" during flight. Actual smoke was reported by the cabin crew in the rear cabin. Necessary action was carried out by the pilot and the warning disappeared after ten minutes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prior to the departure of the aircraft from Hyderabad, there was a delay of 25 minutes to rectify a snag in the hydraulic system of the aircraft. The aircraft was checked and certified airworhty before departure. This snag had no connection with the snag which occurred in the flight.

(e) and (f) The incident is under investigation. Action will be taken on the recommendations emanating from the investigation report.

Opening of tourist offices abroad

*1352. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourist offices opened abroad;

(b) the main objectives of opening tourist offices in those countries; and

(c) the details of tourist officers and other staff working in those offices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) At present there are eighteen Govt. of India Tourist Offices functioning abroad whose main objective is to promote India as an attractive tourist destination through extensive publicity and promotional compaigns, or-